

F-4-11  
Casa Loma  
Braddock Heights  
Private

Ca. 1910

Casa Loma is a 2-1/2 story Mission style house with a white stucco exterior and a shaped parapet in the hipped roof. The wide overhanging eaves have paired brackets. The west elevation has a projecting entrance foyer and originally had a one-story porch which has been removed, leaving a small balcony off a second story doorway. A two-story sun porch on the east elevation was originally open, but has been enclosed and a recently built garage and connecting link have also been added. Built as a sanitarium in about 1910 by Rev. Charles Winbigler, it was briefly the home of Oscar C. Coblenz, one of the partners in the Frederick and Middletown Railway, which developed the resort village of Braddock Heights, before becoming an exclusive hotel in the 1920's and early 1930's. During this period it was well-known as an elegant retreat for prominent Washingtonians and others. The grounds once were ornamented with urns and a fountain. Casa Loma is unique in Braddock Heights for its Mission style and may be the only example in Frederick County. The style was mostly built in the Southwest, but some examples exist in the East, popularized by architectural and building magazines in the period about 1905-1920.

F-4-11  
Casa Loma  
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont  
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery  
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:  
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture, Landscape Arch. Comm.  
Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function and Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Domestic/hotel/hotel  
Health Care/sanitarium/sanitarium

Know Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Casa Loma

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 6301 Jefferson Blvd. ☐ not for publicationcity, town Braddock Heights ☐ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. &amp; Mrs. Myron W. Randall

street &amp; number 6301 Jefferson Blvd. telephone no.:

city, town Braddock Heights state and zip code Md. 21714

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1645

street &amp; number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 351

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. F-4-11

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

Casa Loma is a 2-1/2 story frame house with a stucco exterior built about 1910 in the Mission style located on the east side of Jefferson Boulevard in Braddock Heights, Frederick County, Maryland. The house has an asymmetrical facade on the west elevation with a shaped roof parapet influenced by Spanish Colonial mission architecture. The house has an irregular plan with modern alterations to an originally open sun porch on the east or rear elevation and a recently rebuilt attached concrete block garage. The site is a large, open lot with a terraced lawn on the west edged by a row of trees.

The house has a basically square plan with a hipped composition roof which was originally slate. Dormers project from the roof slopes on all elevations. The Mission style parapet breaks through the deep eave line as an additional dormer. The eaves have large paired brackets. On the west elevation first story is a projecting entrance foyer. A one-story porch seen in photos of the 1920's was removed, probably in the 1940's, although the concrete deck is still in place and a small balcony with iron railings is located off the second story door to the sun deck that was on the porch roof. Window placement is varied, as was typical of the Mission style and the other eclectic styles of the early 20th century. On the first story, many windows are grouped in threes, with 9/1 sash. Some windows have been replaced with plate glass, as was one on the south elevation near the southwest corner. On the east elevation was a two-level open sun porch. This was enclosed on the first level possibly during the 1930's. The current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Randall, remodeled the porch, enclosing both levels and installing modern windows. At the same time, a wood deck was built off the enclosed porch. About 4 years ago, the original garage near the southeast corner of the house was replaced with the present concrete block structure and an enclosed connecting link with the kitchen of the house was built.

Early photographs in the Randalls' possession show the grounds landscaped with piers topped by urns and a fountain north of the house. Anne B. Hooper's Braddock Heights: A Glance Backward describes the stucco exterior has having been painted pink during the 1920's and 1930's, probably reflecting the Mission style's origins in California.

The interior plan has a large living room with a stone fireplace, opening into the dining room, which has built-in storage cabinets added by Marshall Staub during his ownership from 1938 to 1960. Originally, the living room entrance from the front hall was flanked by columns set on low bookcases, a common feature of early 20th century house plans. The parquet floor shows the location of the cases. These were removed by Mr. Staub. The only major change to the first floor other than the porch enclosure and window alterations is the addition of a bath room under the staircase. The ceiling of the living room retains the original beams and the woodwork is varnished wood, probably oak. On the upper stories, the wood trim appears to be pine, as are the floors. The doors on the second floor still have faint numbers, dating from the house's use as a hotel from about 1920 to the mid-1930's.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-11

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Ca. 1910	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or		
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Casa Loma is an unusual example of the Mission architectural style in Frederick County. In the resort community of Braddock Heights, it is unique among the eclectic styles found throughout the village. The house is also important for its original use as a sanitarium and later as a hotel, two of the reasons for the popularity and success of Braddock Heights being its spectacular location on the Catoctin Mountain ridge and the common medical belief of the early 20th century in the health benefits of higher elevations, particularly during the summer season.

Other hotels in Braddock Heights also promoted the location for health advantages and some private residences were built for owners with respiratory conditions which were supposed to benefit from the clearer air in the mountains. The Vindobona Hotel (F-4-13), near Casa Loma on Jefferson Boulevard, had guests prominent in Washington circles, including Grace Tully, a secretary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was recuperating from tuberculosis. Roosevelt visited there at least once. Casa Loma was built by Rev. Charles F. Winbigler, a Washington minister who believed in a system of mental treatment for physical conditions who hoped to establish the house as a sanitarium for his method. The current owner of Casa Loma believes tuberculosis patients were supposed to be the most frequent residents, although she also thinks it could have catered to wealthy alcoholics. Winbigler's sanitarium was unsuccessful and the house was the residence of the Oscar B. Coblentz family from about 1910 to 1919. Coblentz was one of the developers of Braddock Heights and an investor in the Frederick and Middletown Railway. In 1919, it was sold to Louis E. Guertin, a French caterer from Washington, who operated it as a hotel and restaurant until the mid-1930's when the Depression caused a severe decline in the resort village's business. During the hotel period, Casa Loma is reputed to have been a discreet meeting and vacation retreat for prominent Washington society leaders, drawn by Guertin's fine food and the privacy of the location.

The Mission style was popularized first in California, drawing on the Spanish Colonial missions of that state for decorative details and occasionally in floor plans. Architectural and builders' publications spread the style to the eastern U.S. It was not common outside the Southwest, but scattered examples built about 1905–1920 exist in the East, according to McAlester's Field Guide to American Houses. Further survey remains to be done to reveal whether Casa Loma is unique in Frederick County.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-11

Hooper, Anne B. Braddock Heights: A Glance Backward. Privately published, 1974.  
Interview with Mrs. Myron W. Randall, Jan. 24, 1992.  
Land Records of Frederick County

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 1/4 acresQuadrangle name Middletown, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Concurrent with Tax Map 76, Parcel 25, including Lots 45, 46 & 47 of Plat A,  
Braddock Building & Development Co.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date February 1992street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by  
an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated  
Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and  
record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of  
individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

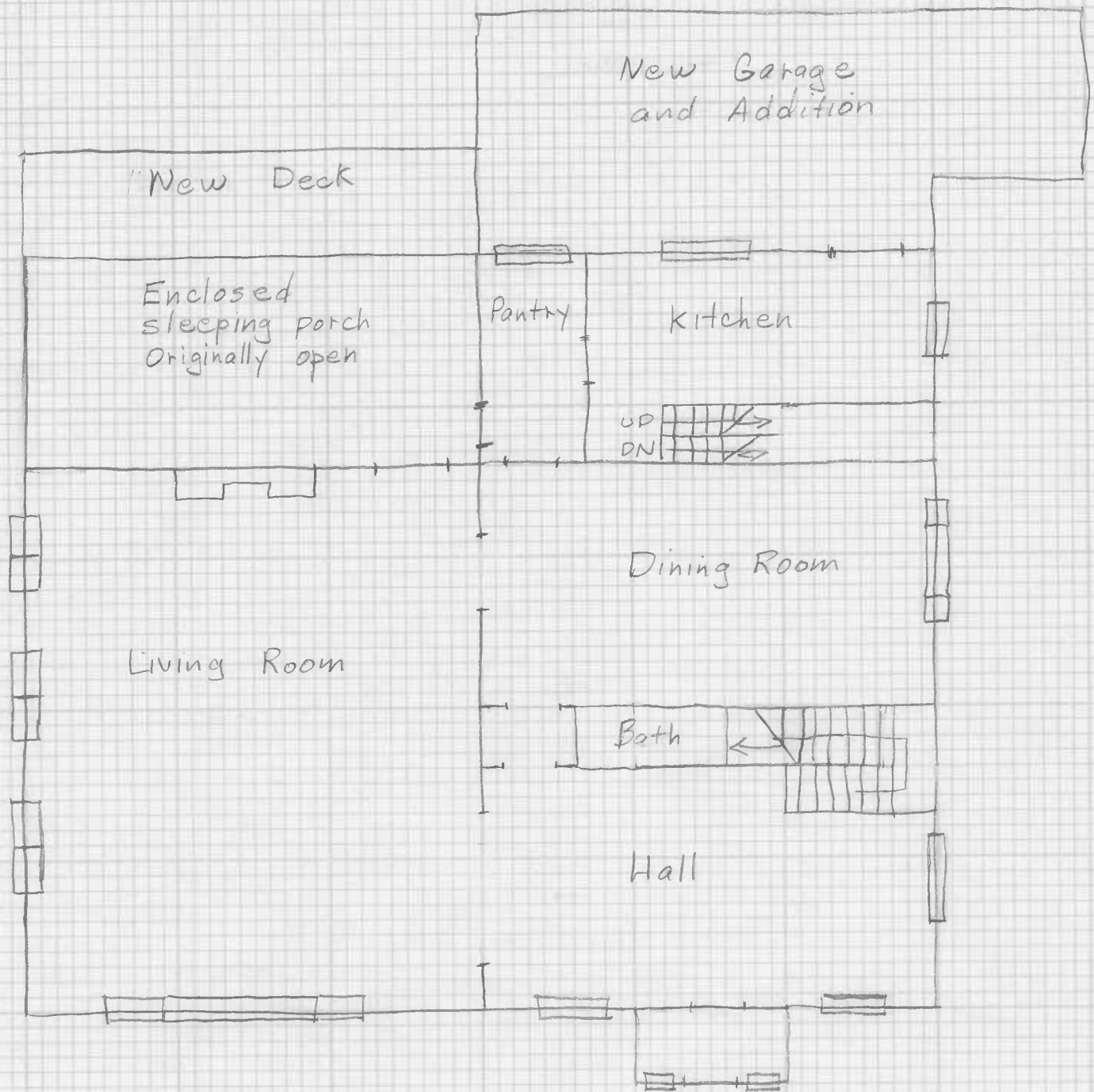
MARYLAND HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY  
DHCP/DHCE  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
(410) 514-7600

Casa Loma 6301 Jeff. Blvd. #27

F-4-11

LIBER/FOL	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1645/351 1 May 90	Mijron M. & Frances A. Randall	M. W. & J. A. Randall	<del>1st</del> Parcel: Lots 45, 46 & 47 on Plat "A", B. Bldg. & Driv. Co. STH/3 Plat Book 54,000 sq. ft.		
724/501 1 Jun 56	M. W. & J. A. Randall	J. Marshall & Helen E. Staub	1st Parcel: Lots 45-47 54,000 sq. ft.		
412/219 18 Mar 38	J. Marshall & Eleanor H. Staub (Eleanor died; J. Marshall married Helen)	Home Owners Loan Corp.			
399/560 1 Nov 35	Home Owners Loan Corp.	Joseph D. Misk, attorney for mortgage foreclosure			
372/502 4 Feb 30	Louis E. & Katherine S. Guertin	Gerald H. Rensberg			
372/501 4 Feb 30	Gerald H. Rensberg	Louis E. & Katherine S. Guertin			
331/368 5 Apr 20	Louis E. Guertin	Oscar B. & Margaret P. Coblentz			
329/504 31 Dec 19	Louis E. Guertin	Oscar B. & Margaret P. Coblentz			

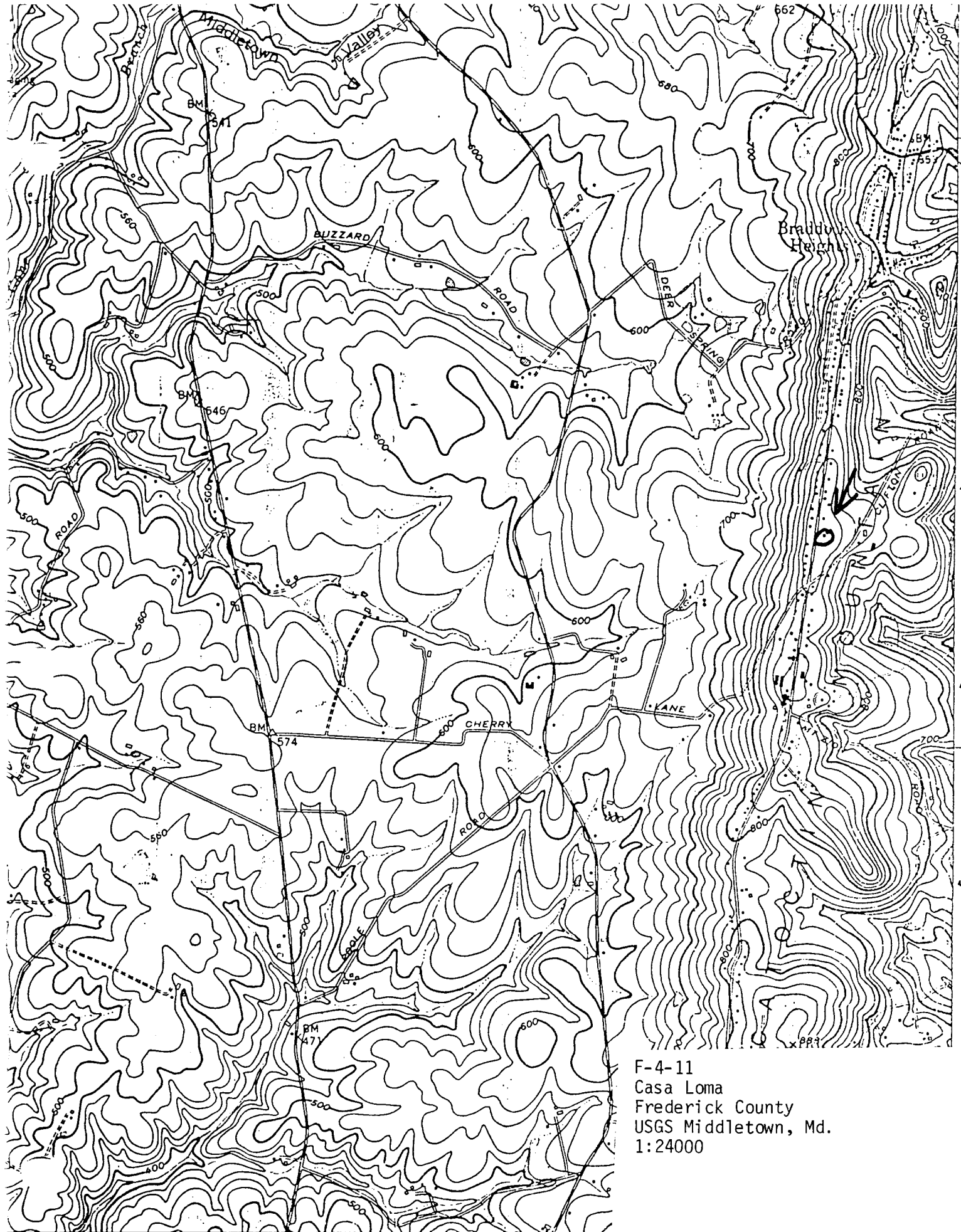
Casa Yoma	Page 2		F-4-11		
LIBER/FOL	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
318/121 12 May 16	Ossau B. Colclatz	Charles McL. Mathias			
318/120 6 May 16	Chas. McL. Mathias	Iruin & Julius S. Bain			
316/293 1 Mar 16	Iruin Bain	Rebecca A. & Richard S. Wolfe			
316/225 20 Jan. 16	Rebecca A. Wolfe	Ralph P. Williams & wife			
316/225 15 Feb 15	Ralph P. Williams	Charles F. Wenigler & Della Wenigler			



← N

F-4-11  
Casa Loma  
Frederick County

Janet Davis  
Jan. 24, 1992  
Not to Scale



F-4-11  
Casa Loma  
Frederick County  
USGS Middletown, Md.  
1:24000











Feb 21

20. 2. 1902

For J. J. J. J. J.

Photo: J. J. J. J. J.

20. 2. 1902

1. 2. 1902. 1. 2. 1902. 1. 2. 1902.

1. 2. 1902. 1. 2. 1902.

3. 2.



E. 4 11

Jonathan

Fredrickson County

Photo: Fredrickson County

Nov. 11, 1945

Wm. W. Mid. SHRC. Greenville, N.C.

General Wm. W. W. W.

4/6